(b) whether Government have considering or are considering to provide air travel in a planned manner in consultation with Ministry of Civil Aviation in view of developing Tourism;

(c) the details of place-wise/region-wise and air services regarding whole country; and

(d) whether Government are considering to propagate and facilitate Allahabad, Ayodhya and other regions?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) No, Sir. Department of Tourism, Government of India provides financial assistance for improvement of tourism infrastructure at destinations identified in consultation with State Governments. Department of Tourism also undertakes the work of promotion and publicity of these places both in the country and abroad.

(b) The Department of Tourism interacts regularly with the Ministry of Civil Aviation for providing better air travel to tourism destinations.

(c) The information is being collected.

(d) Government of India propagates all important tourism destinations in the country.

Development of Tourism in Pondicherry

4358. SHRI C.P. THIRUNAVUKKARASU: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government are taking steps for making tourism more attractive in the Union Territory of Pondicherry;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government;

(c) the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Promotion of tourism is a continuous process. Government of India, Department of Tourism provides financial assistance for projects every year in consultation with the State Governments/UT Administrations. The

Government is promoting foreign as well as domestic tourism in the country including Pondicherry through its 13 overseas offices by advertising in print & electronic media, participation in travel fairs, inviting media and Travel Agents on familiarization trips, extensive use of Information Technology in tourism promotion etc. Domestic tourism is encouraged through 21 domestic offices within India.

(c) During 2000-2001, 3 projects were sanctioned for Rs. 26.18 lakhs and in 2001-2002, 3 projects have been sanctioned for Rs. 78.61 lakhs for development and promotion of tourism in the Pondicherry.

(d) Does not arise.

New Cultural Policy

4359. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a new cultural policy;

(b) what is the status of the proposal and by when it is likely to be announced;

(c) whether specific provisions are proposed to be incorporated for bringing legislation to protect cultural heritage sites and properties; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) to (d) Yes Sir. The formulation of a National Policy on Culture is under consideration of the Government. As such, no specific details can be given at this stage.

New UNESCO rules

4360. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether new UNESCO rules prohibit repetition of application for grant of World Heritage sites rejected within two years; and

(b) if so, the steps taken to represent the UNESCO so that application rejected for incomplete information should not come under the new restrictions?